

Remarks:

In the February 13, 2009, Office Action, the Examiner imposed a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. Section 121 between the claims of Group I (Claims 1-10, 26-39, and 43), the claims of Group II (Claims 11-13), the claim of Group III (Claim 15), the claims of Group IV (Claims 16 and 18-23), the claim of Group V (Claim 24), the claim of Group VI (Claim 25), the claim of Group VII (Claim 41), and the claim of Group VIII (Claim 42). The inventions of the various groups were asserted in the February 13, 2009, Office Action to not be related linked so as to form a single general inventive concept.

Applicants believe that the Examiner erroneously included Claim 23 in Group IV, when it should properly be included in Group I by virtue of the fact that it depends from Claim 9, which is included in Group I. Thus, Group I should include Claims 1-10, 23, 26-39, and 43, and Group IV should include Claims 16 and 18-22.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's implied assertion that the inventions of the eight (8) groups are patentably distinct from each other. Applicants expect that claims directed to the non-elected inventions in any divisional application(s) will not be subject to a double patenting rejection.

Applicants hereby provisionally elect the claims of Group I (Claims 1-10, 23, 26-39, and 43), without traverse (other than with respect to Claim 23, which, as mentioned above, Applicants believe should be included in Group I). Applicants have

cancelled the unelected claim of Groups II (Claims 11-13), III (Claim 15), IV (Claims 16 and 18-22, with the exception of Claim 23, which is believed to properly be in Group I), V (Claim 24), VI (Claim 25), VII (Claim 41), and VIII (Claim 42). Thus, Claims 1-10, 23, 26-39, and 43 remain pending following entry of this Amendment B and Response to Restriction Requirement.

Consideration of the claimed subject matter is respectfully requested, with an early and favorable decision being solicited. Should the Examiner believe that the prosecution of the application can be so expedited, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:

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